BENGALURU, SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 75% Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain Sensex 83,432 | Nifty 25,461 | Gold 98,830 | Silver 1,10,000 | Dollar 85.39 | Euro 100.45 | GBP 116.77

As BBMP drags its feet, traffic police step up and take matters into their own hands — from trimming branches for better visibility to patching up potholes, these officials are doing it all

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Rapid Response Team seems to be last to reach scene of trouble

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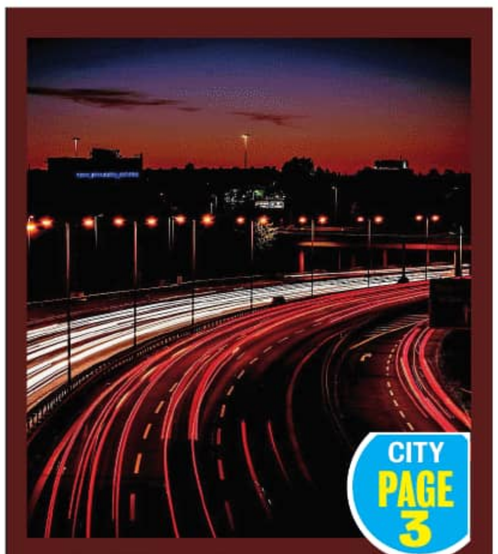
Over the past year, Bengaluru's traffic police have increasingly stepped in to handle civic issues that technically fall under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's jurisdiction. From clearing roads to managing stormwater drains, officers have taken on several tasks far beyond their primary role of traffic regulation, especially during emergencies.

Recently yet again the traffic police had to step in where the BBMP had not. In Vijaynagar, traffic police were seen clearing overgrown tree branches near a signal junction last week. The branches were blocking traffic lights and road signs, posing a serious safety risk. With the help of basic tools and a crane, the officers trimmed the branches and restored visibility, a task officially assigned to the BBMP's Forest Wing.

While such work falls under the BBMP's responsibilities, including under the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, delays due to slow response have pushed traffic police to take over. Every BBMP zone is supposed to have a Rapid Response Team to handle such issues, but these teams are rarely seen in action on time. BM tried to reach out to get a response, however, despite multiple attempts to connect with officials, there was no response to our queries.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

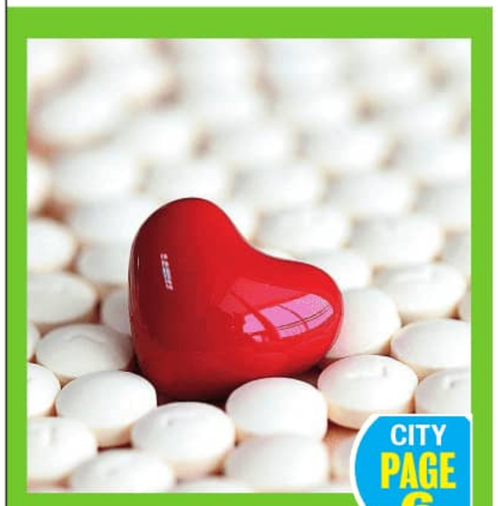
> **"Our priority is commuter safety. When there's an immediate hazard, whether it's a broken road, a fallen branch, or a flooded stretch, we cannot afford to wait**
> — Traffic police official



CITY PAGE 3

Highway horror

National highways through industrial hubs, commercial zones, residential localities have become death corridors



CITY PAGE 6

Take it to heart

Panel recommends routine cardiac screenings for school children aged 15 and creation of National Cardiac Surveillance Registry

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THINGS TO DO

01 Mystic science

Step into a magical world where science meets wizardry at Nexus Whitefield Mall. Enjoy hands-on experiments, fun zones, and magical demos. **Where: Nexus Whitefield Mall; When: July 5–6 & 12–13, 11 am to 8 pm**

02 City strolls

Discover Bengaluru on foot with guided heritage and culture walks across iconic neighbourhoods, hosted by Bengaluru By Foot. **Where: Various city locations; When: • Ulsoor Darshan Walk – Sun, July 13 | 8 am–11 am • Chamarajpet Heritage Walk – Sat, July 19 | 8 am–11 am • Malleswara Darshan Walk – Sun, July 27 | 8 am–11 am**

03 Brand swap

Fashion Factory's Branded Exchange Festival is now live! Exchange your unbranded clothes for top fashion brands and enjoy great savings. Out with the old, in with the stylish—only till July 20! **Where: All Fashion Factory stores; When: Till July 20, 2025**

04 Craft therapy

Discover the art of junk journaling with Deepa Rao in this creative, sustainable workshop. Learn to turn scraps and keepsakes into personal treasures—starter kits included! **Where: Atta Galatta; When: July 6, 5.30 pm**

05 Creative pause

SOCIAL teams up with art collective Social Sailor to host pottery and painting workshops every weekend. No experience needed—just drop in, unwind, and get creative with clay, colour, and canvas. **Where: Church Street SOCIAL & Indiranagar SOCIAL: Saturdays & Sundays Koramangala SOCIAL: Saturdays only; When: 12 pm – 7 pm**

More cars on roads, public transport stuck in slow lane

Experts criticise the government for ignoring sustainable transport, as private vehicle ownership soars past 1.09 crore, worsening traffic and environmental challenges

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Over 3 lakh new vehicles hit city roads in first half of 2025, peaking at nearly 60,000 in January alone

In the first half of 2025, Bengaluru saw a sharp surge in private vehicle ownership, with over 3.08 lakh new private vehicles—comprising more than 2.35 lakh two-wheelers and 73,000 private cars—registered between January and June, according to the state transport department. This influx pushes the total number of private cars and two-wheelers in the city to over 1.09 crore, and the total vehicle count, including transport vehicles, to a little over 1.25 crore. The month-wise data reflects a consistent trend: nearly 60,000 new vehicles were registered in January, followed by 43,611 in February, 52,720 in March, 49,166 in April, around 51,000 in May, and over 53,000 in June.

Mobility experts are raising red flags over the unchecked growth, warning that Bengaluru's increasing dependence on private vehicles is alarming, especially as the state government's efforts to boost public transport remain minimal.

"Instead of promoting public transport, the government seems to be encouraging private car ownership," said Professor Ashish Verma, Convenor of the Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). "Our Deputy Chief Minister is publicly supporting private car ownership, citing rising incomes, and is focused on vertical road infrastructure development to accommodate more vehicles."

While some public transport initiatives are underway, experts point out that progress is slow and inconsistent. Ongoing and proposed infrastructure projects such as the tunnel road and double-decker flyovers prioritise private vehicular movement, thereby undermining the viability and appeal of mass transit systems. Experts voiced their concerns at the recently held World Symposium on Sustainable Transport and Liveability, organised by IISc. There, urban mobility specialists presented successful international case studies and highlighted Bengaluru's deviation from sustainable mobility goals.

A speaker from Vienna outlined their city's approach, which includes traffic calming measures, reduced vehicle speeds, and strong promotion of public transport, walking, and cycling. The speaker noted that Vienna's mobility strategy views cars as undesirable in urban settings, a stance starkly opposite to Bengaluru's current approach.

Another speaker from Canada presented findings from a national survey showing that cyclists and pedestrians reported higher satisfaction and quality of life, thanks to consistent improvements in non-motorised transport infrastructure.

Professor Verma added, "Bengaluru is moving in the opposite direction. Cycling lanes are disappearing, sidewalks are shrinking, and pedestrian safety is often ignored. The city is prioritising faster vehicle movement over people-friendly design." According to experts, Bengaluru needs a balanced strategy that includes both push and pull measures: push strategies to disincentive car ownership and use, and pull strategies to improve the appeal of public transport, walking, and cycling. They assert that the city's target should be to ensure 80% of all commuter trips are made via sustainable modes. Without a shift in policy and planning priorities, experts warn that Bengaluru is headed for a future gridlocked by congestion, pollution, and declining quality of life.

Incomplete data, sticker clashes continue

Despite spending a staggering ₹3.6 crore on a Scheduled Caste household sticker survey in Bengaluru, complaints about incomplete and ineffective data collection continue. Each sticker costs ₹2.47, with an additional ₹5 paid to staff for pasting. The BBMP has printed 35 lakh stickers, deploying ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, and health inspectors—incurring ₹1.75 crore for manpower alone.

The campaign also includes two awareness films made at ₹35,000 per second, along with posters, pamphlets, and auto announcements. A total of ₹49.56 lakh has been spent on video production and social media promotion. Despite this, only 60% of the survey has been completed in Bengaluru, compared to 95% in the rest of Karnataka. The initiative has also led to confusion and clashes in several areas. Some revenue department staff have been suspended for lapses. The Social Welfare Department funded ₹1.8 crore, with the remainder borne by BBMP.

2 more officials suspended

As part of the Scheduled Caste Comprehensive Survey 2025, two valuators—Ramanujaneyalu from Mathikere Subdivision (West Zone) and Praveen Kumar C N from Kengeri Sub-Division (RR Nagar Zone)—have been suspended for dereliction of duty in affixing survey stickers during the house-to-house drive. The officials have been relieved from active duty pending further inquiry. Copies of the suspension orders have been attached for reference. **— BMB**

Synthetic milk racket busted in Kolar

A thriving racket involving the production of synthetic milk using harmful chemicals and milk powder has come to light in the border regions of Karnataka. Authorities have confirmed that this adulterated milk, which looks deceptively white and pure, is being supplied even to reputed dairies, putting the health of lakhs of unsuspecting consumers at risk. Regular consumption of such fake milk can lead to weakened bones, kidney and digestive disorders, skin diseases, stunted growth in children, and even heart-related ailments, warn medical experts.

A major bust occurred in Kolar district, where a man was found supplying 400–500 litres of adulterated milk daily to a dairy in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Lab tests confirmed that the powder used in the milk was unsafe for consumption. Authorities detected inconsistencies in fat and water content during routine checks, prompting deeper investigation. Officials now urge consumers to self-test milk quality at home using simple methods like observing the flow of milk on a tilted plate or shaking it in a bottle for consistency. **— BMB**

Chinnaswamy tragedy derails police careers

The fallout from the stampede tragedy at Chinnaswamy Stadium continues, with departmental inquiries (DE) now looming over five senior police officers, including ADGP B Dayananda. Multiple probes—judicial, CID, and magisterial—have pointed to serious lapses, prompting the state government to consider ordering a formal DE led by a retired judge. If initiated, this could stall promotions for Dayananda and others, particularly affecting seniority-based elevations to the coveted DGP posts.

The situation has triggered uncertainty over upcoming IPS promotions. With two DGP positions expected to fall vacant soon, officers like Alok Kumar and Dayananda were contenders. However, both now face DEs, along with Amrit Paul, already arrested in the PSI scam.

Umesh Kumar and Arun Chakravarthy remain as potential candidates.

Meanwhile, IGP Vikas Kumar's reinstatement after his suspension was revoked has drawn criticism. The government is preparing a charge memo against him. A joint departmental inquiry for all five officers is expected, likely delaying decisions and impacting their career prospects. **— BMB**

BDA relief for CA site holders

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has announced major relief for societies and institutions holding Civic Amenity (CA) sites. If they pay the standard renewal fee within the stipulated period, the usual 18% interest on delayed renewals will be fully waived.

Speaking at a press conference, BDA Chairman N A Haris said that out of nearly 1,000 CA sites, over 250 are pending renewal. The one-time waiver is valid for 120 days, following state government approval to support financially strained institutions.

To improve citizen services, the BDA will also launch a Civic Help Centre at its headquarters starting July 5. Dedicated nodal officers will address public grievances, and citizens can call 9483100622 to register complaints, which the BDA promises to resolve within 30 days.

On the infrastructure front, Haris said the Hebbal flyover project is progressing rapidly and will be completed by August. In addition, a new underpass near KR Puram is being planned to ease congestion along the Tumakuru route. **— BMB**

Caution: Deadly national highways coming up ahead

Poor road infrastructure and lack of safety measures have made commutes dangerous on roads cutting through areas such as Devanahalli, Hoskote and Nelamangala

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Every year, thousands commute through Bengaluru's national highways, but what was meant to ease travel is now proving fatal. Highways cutting through industrial hubs, commercial zones, and residential localities have become death corridors instead of smooth travel routes. In places like Devanahalli, Hoskote, and Nelamangala, rapid urban growth has led to increased traffic, but poor road infrastructure and lack of safety measures have turned these roads into accident hotspots, sparking fear among commuters.

Call for skywalks and safety measures

Highways like the Expressway to Chennai, NH-207 connecting to Kempegowda International Airport, the Hoskote-Bengaluru route via Solur, and roads to Chikkaballapur are witnessing repeated accidents. Authorities are now demanding the construction of skywalks in high-risk areas. Despite the danger, proper signboards remain missing, and unauthorised advertising hoardings obstruct visibility and add to the risks.

Rapid urbanisation has led to traffic growth but infra has not kept up

Lack of warning signs and encroachments

Locals said that there is an urgent need to install visible cautionary boards and remove illegal hoardings along national highways. District officials have warned of strict action against those dumping waste, plastic, and debris on highways. Police, too, have been asked to act decisively against encroachments without yielding to pressure or intimidation.

Key figures at glance

- **297** deaths in road accidents have been recorded in the current year on highways in the periphery of Bengaluru.
- **38** black spots identified across the district.
- **35** accident zones on national highways.
- High traffic zones near schools, colleges, and commercial areas are under scrutiny.
- Skywalks and signboards to be prioritised in upcoming road safety initiatives.

> **There is an urgent need to install visible cautionary boards and remove illegal hoardings along national highways and to act firmly against encroachments**
>
> –Local resident of area near a highway

Model alleges assault, robbery

A Hubballi-based model was allegedly assaulted and robbed by a private bus crew near Anandrao Circle late Monday night. The incident occurred around 11.30 pm under Upparpet police limits.

The victim, Dhruvanai, had just returned from Thailand and was waiting to board a Sea Bird bus to Hubballi when an argument broke out with the staff, reportedly over him smoking a cigarette near the vehicle. The dispute escalated, and Dhruvanai was allegedly attacked by multiple crew members, sustaining injuries to his face, neck, and chest. In his complaint, he claimed valuables including a platinum pendant chain worth 1.85 lakh, sunglasses, luxury shoes, a passport, a platinum ring, a 45,000 watch, and 10,000 in cash were stolen during the scuffle.

Upparpet police have registered a case and are probing the sequence of events to determine if the model was attacked by the staff or if a mutual scuffle broke out. **–BMB**

Auto driver robs passenger, flees

In the early hours of Friday, an auto driver allegedly robbed a passenger near Platform Road under Seshadripuram police limits. The victim, identified as Asif from Uttar Pradesh, had arrived at Majestic railway station around 4 am and boarded an auto to JP Nagar.

Instead of taking him to his destination, the driver diverted the route to a deserted stretch in Seshadripuram, threatened him, and fled after snatching 2,000 and his mobile phone. Asif later approached Seshadripuram police, who have registered a case and are scanning CCTV footage to trace the accused. **–BMB**

ADVERTORIAL

Welcome to the den of effortless, expressive fashion for men

In the heart of Koramangala's ever-buzzing 7th Block, a new chapter in Bengaluru's menswear story quietly but confidently opened its doors this weekend. The Bear House, a homegrown men's apparel brand known for bringing elevated European minimalism to Indian wardrobes, launched its first flagship store at Real Square, marking a milestone moment in its seven-year journey.

Founded in 2018 by husband-wife duo Tanvi and Harsh Somaiya, The Bear House has steadily grown from a digital-first label into a retail name with presence across cities like Pune, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru. But the Koramangala store, designed like a modern den, represents something more, a physical extension of the brand's lifestyle vision.

"We started online, but we always believed fashion should be felt, not just clicked," co-founder Harsh Somaiya said. "This flagship store is where people can experience the brand beyond fabric, from styling to music, coffee to community," he added.

And indeed, the launch lived up to that promise. The Saturday event drew over 100 digital influencers, fashion enthusiasts, and music lovers, all of whom mingled over artisanal bakes and specialty coffee at the brand's newest addition, the in-house Bear Café. An international DJ added rhythm to the evening, while guests explored the store's latest collection, crafted for the modern Indian man's "9 to 9" wardrobe.

A brand that gets it

The Bear House understands the evolving wardrobe needs of today's Indian man, effortless, expressive, and ready for real life. With a design language rooted in modern European minimalism, the brand reimagines staples like flannels, oversized checks, and relaxed tailoring into everyday essentials that feel sharp without trying too hard.

"Today's Gen Z and millennials are tired of rigid, formal dressing, we're here to say that it's okay to leave your shirt untucked and still look smart," said Somaiya.

With this store, The Bear House continues to break stereotypes around menswear. Think less boardroom and more café-meets-casual-Friday. From premium shirts and polos to denim, blazers, and accessories, it's all Made in India, for India, and the world. The brand has already expanded internationally, with a presence across six major online platforms in the GCC region, and recently appeared on Shark Tank India, further signalling its growing footprint.

The den:

Designed to feel more like a personal retreat than a conventional retail outlet, The Bear House's new flagship store has already been recognised with a VMRD Award for its standout architecture, praised for seamlessly combining creativity, functionality, and storytelling.

Step inside, and the space unfolds like a modern-day den which is warm, inviting, and immersive. The interiors draw inspiration from a bear's cave, complete with an asymmetrical, cave-like façade, quirky bear-faced mannequins, paw print motifs, and a cosy lounge corner tucked near the trial rooms.

This reflects the brand's deeper philosophy, merging style with comfort, design with community, and European-inspired aesthetics with Indian sensibilities.

To celebrate the launch, The Bear House is offering a flat 20% discount for the first 30 days.

What's next?

The brand plans to open 25 new stores this financial year, with 16 already signed and 12 in various stages of fit-out.

So why visit? Because this isn't just another store opening. It's a refreshing reminder that good fashion doesn't have to shout, it just needs to fit right, feel right, and be honest and that's exactly what The Bear House promises.

The Bear House flagship store is located at:

The Bear House,
Shop 1A, Ground Floor,
Real Square No. 115,
Koramangala 7th Block,
Bangalore – 560095.

Waterbody woes continue despite deweeding move

Unfenced and polluted, YM Shetty Lake remains vulnerable; government's deweeding move offers some relief, but activists demand stronger protection and regular maintenance

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Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake, a 200-acre water body near KR Puram, continues to make headlines for both concerning and promising developments. Despite its ecological importance, the lake remains a dumping ground for waste, raising serious environmental concerns. However, there is a ray of hope — the Minor Irrigation Department has sanctioned ₹25 lakh for deweeding a section of the lake. Though limited in scope, this initiative has been welcomed by environmentalists pushing for the lake's restoration and long-term conservation efforts.

A few days ago, one of the volunteers caught the driver of a septic tank cleaning vehicle red-handed while unloading sludge from the vehicle into the lake at night. The volunteers and environmentalists have been appealing to the minor irrigation department to fence the lake to prevent dumping of waste into the water body but in vain.

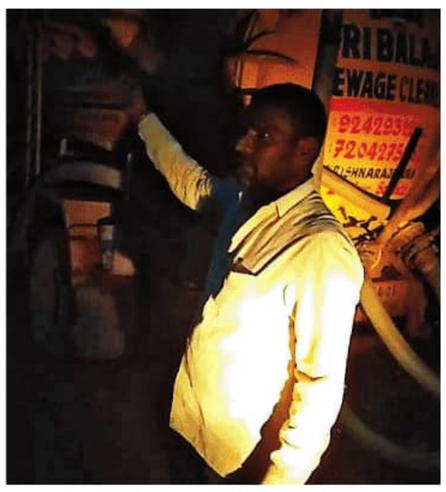
"Incomplete fencing, absence of BBMP Marshals, illegal dumping and discharge of sludge into the lake continues. There is no control on the encroachment of the lake land. Water hyacinth has covered half of the lake. The BWSSB failed to stop sewage flowing into the lake. I want the minor irrigation department to take measures to protect the lake," said Subhajit Ghosh, a volunteer.

The shocking sight of an autorickshaw dumped in Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake on Wednesday has renewed concerns over the lake's poor upkeep. "I've repeatedly urged the Minor Irrigation Department to fence the area, but nothing has been done," said lake activist Balaji Raghotham, who also reported finding carcasses and debris in the lake earlier.

Above: Auto rickshaw dumped into Yale Mallappa Shetty Lake; Below: Minor Irrigation Department engineers surveying the lake; Right: A septic tank cleaning vehicle driver letting sludge into the lake

When informed, Minor Irrigation Department Assistant Executive Engineer Vasu, said that he would lodge a police complaint against those responsible for dumping the autorickshaw into the lake. 25 lakh sanctioned for lake deweeding

The good news is that half of Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake is set to be cleared of weeds, as the Minor Irrigation Department has sanctioned ₹25 lakh for deweeding. Officials, along with Karthikeyan from NAL Jhal Dosth and Captain Deleep Kumar, Secretary of the Kayaking and Canoeing Association, recently surveyed the lake. "We will float a tender for deweeding. Work will begin in a few days. Our objective is to keep the lake clean," said Assistant Executive Engineer Vasu.



On April 10, 2025, Bangalore Mirror published a story titled "Invasion of the Lake Snatchers", highlighting how a team of kayakers preparing for the National Championship have been unable to train for the past month. Their practice venue, Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake, is choked with hyacinths, and poor maintenance is now affecting the athletes' chances.

Meanwhile, Captain Deleep Kumar, Secretary of Kayaking and Canoeing Association, said that he was very happy with the Minor Irrigation Department sanctioning funds for de-weeding the lake. "I want to thank Minor Irrigation Secretary BK Pavithra for sanctioning the funds for de-weeding the lake. The Assistant Executive Engineer Vasu has also taken measures to keep the lake clean," he said.

Tunnel road tender to be ready soon

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar announced that the tender process for Phase 1 of Bengaluru's ambitious tunnel road project will be finalised within the next 4–5 days. Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha on Friday, he said the first phase would cost ₹17,000 crore and the second ₹23,000 crore. The twin tunnel roads will span 40 km from Hebbal Junction to Silk Board and 23 km from Mysuru Road to KR Puram.

Shivakumar added that 130 km of flyovers and new Metro corridors are being planned with double-decker structures. A 7 km stretch of double-decker flyover has already been built, and plans are underway to construct another 37 km, with tenders to be floated soon. The government also intends to build 300 km of roads along stormwater drains. Easing Bengaluru's traffic congestion, he emphasised, remains a top priority. — BMB

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CCB tightens grip on bars after raids

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has issued strict guidelines to bars in Bengaluru following recent raids that revealed multiple violations, including breaches of dress codes and misuse of licences. In response, the CCB has directed all bar owners—particularly those previously raided—to submit daily CCTV footage to their jurisdictional police stations via pen drive or CD. This step aims to ensure ongoing surveillance and compliance with legal norms. Officials warned that violations seen in the footage will attract strict legal action. DCP Akshay Machindra confirmed and stated, "Guidelines from excise, health, and law departments must be followed. Bar owners have been instructed to maintain public decency and employee conduct." — BMB

Show-cause notices sent to defunct parties

In a rare move, the BBMP and Bengaluru district election authorities have launched a special drive to trace 10 registered but unrecognised political parties that haven't contested elections in the past six years or maintained a valid address. With these parties missing since 2019, the Election Commission of India has initiated proceedings to cancel their registration, raising serious questions about their legitimacy and continued existence in the electoral system.

Chief Commissioner and Bengaluru District Election Officer Maheshwar Rao confirmed that show-cause notices have been issued to these parties under Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Despite several attempts, officials have been unable to trace their offices. The BBMP's election wing is now on a focused mission to verify their existence. If no explanation is received within the deadline, the Election Commission may proceed with cancellation. — BMB

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Banner invasion

Varthur

Flex banners featuring a local strongman have remained plastered across Varthur for over 10 days, sparking concerns about visual pollution and lack of civic enforcement.

Cleanup delay

Sirsi Circle

The Sirsi Circle flyover continues to be neglected, as BBMP has failed to clean the area for days, despite mounting public frustration and complaints.

Eco neglect

Banashankari

Despite Forest Department orders, concrete is still being laid around tree roots in Banashankari 2nd Stage, putting the trees at risk and breaching green regulations.

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Panel advises cardiac screenings from age 15, creation of registry

Call for early screening stems from increasing evidence that cardiovascular problems are surfacing earlier in life, driven by sedentary habits, unhealthy diets, stress among teens

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In a push to tackle the alarming rise in sudden cardiac deaths (SCD), especially among young adults, an expert committee led by Dr KS Ravindranath, Director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, has urged immediate nationwide measures—including routine cardiac screenings for school children aged 15 and the creation of a National Cardiac Surveillance Registry.

The committee, formed by the Government of Karnataka, was tasked with investigating the growing number of sudden cardiovascular deaths and exploring possible links with Covid-19 infection or vaccination.

After extensive review, the findings point not to the pandemic, but to a broader and evolving landscape of traditional and lifestyle-related cardiovascular risk factors.

One of the key recommendations is the introduction of routine heart screenings in schools, specifically targeting 10th-grade students or those around 15 years old. These screenings would include clinical evaluations aimed at identifying congenital heart defects, inherited rhythm disorders, structural abnormalities, as well as obesity, hypertension, cholesterol imbalances, and insulin resistance.

This call for early screening stems from increasing evidence that cardiovascular problems are surfacing earlier in life, driven by sedentary habits, unhealthy diets, and rising stress among teenagers. The committee believes that early detection and timely intervention could significantly reduce future cardiac events in younger populations.

Traditional and lifestyle-related cardiovascular risk factors have been evolving

Expert committee formed by state government finds no link between sudden cardiovascular deaths and covid infection or vaccination, but finds complex mix of factors to be behind this spike

To better understand the nature of these deaths, the committee conducted an observational study of 251 patients under the age of 45 admitted to Jayadeva Hospital between April and May 2025.

A large proportion of these individuals showed traditional risk factors—hypertension (40.6%), diabetes (34.7%), dyslipidemia (43.8%), and smoking (44.2%). However, what stood out was that nearly 27% of patients had no identifiable risk factors at all, raising concerns that current diagnostic practices may be missing hidden vulnerabilities.

Importantly, the committee found no evidence linking sudden cardiac events to previous Covid-19 infection or vaccination. Contrary to widespread concerns, data from both Indian and international studies suggest that Covid-19 vaccines are actually protective against heart-related complications over time.

"The data does not support fears that long Covid or vaccination is behind this trend," the report states. "Rather, the rise in cases is better explained by an increase in lifestyle-related risk factors, which worsened during and after the pandemic."

The report emphasises that there is no single cause behind the spike in sudden cardiac deaths.

Instead, it highlights a complex mix of genetic, behavioural, and environmental contributors. Although the immediate post-covid period did see a rise in heart-related issues due to inflammation, this effect appears to have tapered off.

With sudden cardiac deaths among individuals under 45 continuing to climb over the past four years, the committee's findings have added urgency to preventive strategies, underscoring the need for early intervention, public awareness, and long-term health monitoring.

Awareness & AI boost to helmet rule

In a joint operation, police and RTO officials crack down on illegal half helmets in the city

Public awareness about the life-saving importance of helmets, coupled with fear of penalties through AI-powered surveillance, has led to a significant drop in helmetless riding cases in Bengaluru. Compared to previous years, the number of such traffic violations from January to June 2024 dropped by nearly 50%. While 20.95 lakh helmetless riding cases were registered during the same period in 2023 and 20.80 lakh in 2022, this year's figure has drastically reduced to 7.92 lakh.

Officials attribute the sharp decline to the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), which uses AI-enabled Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras installed at key junctions and circles across the city. These high-tech cameras work even at night, recording around 90% of violations and issuing automated challans. As a result, most two-wheeler riders now wear helmets to avoid fines.

Helmetless riding still remains the most common violation among over 24 lakh traffic offences recorded this year. Experts at NIMHANS warn that nearly 70% of two-wheeler fatalities involve head injuries, and wearing a full helmet increases survival chances by 80%. They also stress that half-helmets offer minimal protection and that pillion riders must wear helmets to avoid fatal injuries, especially to the brainstem. **–BMB**

'Safe City' booth makes it pretty unsafe for pedestrians

Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

While the "Safe City" initiative encompasses multiple efforts, its primary goal is to ensure that women can engage in public life free from fear, violence, or harassment. To enhance accessibility, police cabins have been set up in various locations, including footpaths. However, the police booth on the footpath near Orion Avenue in Bengaluru has sparked strong criticism from residents, who argue that it endangers pedestrian safety and undermines the very essence of the "Safe City" concept.

Residents have raised concerns over the booth's location, which blocks the pedestrian walkway and forces people to step onto a busy and often hazardous road. A concerned citizen, Francis, has written to the Lokayukta, seeking intervention after repeated complaints to police officials and the BBMP went unanswered.

The irony hasn't gone unnoticed.

The booth displays the phrase "SAFE CITY" prominently, even as it disrupts footpath access,

> **"Parking vehicles as they like, ignoring traffic violators who drive at breakneck speed... Is the caption 'SAFE CITY' a farce or simply a case of police idiocy?**
>
> –Francis, citizen who wrote to Lokayukta

creating potential safety hazards for pedestrians. "By completely blocking the footpath and forcing pedestrians onto the unsafe main road all while keeping the cabin door swinging open into the street—it's putting lives at risk instead of protecting them," one resident remarked.

Making matters worse, the police vehicle attached to the booth is reportedly parked haphazardly, adding to congestion and violating traffic norms. The cabin's door, which opens outward into pedestrian space, has further drawn criticism for its poor planning and disregard for safety.

Francis expressed deep frustration, stating, "Parking their police vehicle as they like, ignoring traffic violators who drive at breakneck speed in the wrong direction. One wonders if the caption 'SAFE CITY' is a farce or simply a case of police idiocy?"

Safe City booth has been placed bang in the middle of a footpath near Orion Avenue where the road is usually busy

Footpath encroachment has long plagued Bengaluru, with pedestrians often pushed onto roads due to illegal occupations by street vendors, parked vehicles, and unauthorised structures.

Residents point out that if vendors are not allowed to sell food on sidewalks, then occupying the same space with parked vehicles or government structures should be treated as equally unacceptable.

In his complaint to the Lokayukta, Francis noted that no action had been taken by the BBMP, the Police Department, or the Home Ministry despite repeated appeals. "Good administration doesn't always require an IAS or IPS officer. What's truly needed is just some basic common sense," he wrote. Calling it a failure of governance, he added, "It is a shame that even in our 78th year of independence, we have idiots running the show in the name of administration."

Vinod Jacob from the Namma Bengaluru Foundation echoed these concerns, stating, "Walkability in the city is already poor, and incidents like these only worsen the situation. There must be a strict SOP in place to ensure that police booths don't block public pathways."

THE SUNDAY READ

Rumble in the jungle

Staff shortage, unpaid wages and administrative apathy troubling forest dept

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The recent poisoning deaths of five tigers in the Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary have exposed deeper systemic failures within the forest department. What seemed like a case of local retaliation by villagers has now revealed layers of neglect — from acute staff shortages and inadequate patrolling infrastructure, to months of unpaid wages and non-compliance with employee welfare mandates. A detailed investigation uncovers how the combination of operational vacuum, overburdened staff, and indifferent administration may have inadvertently paved the way for this tragic incident.

Gaps in manpower

At the heart of the crisis is the Hoogyam Wildlife Range, spread across two subsections and nine beats. The sanctioned staff strength includes one Range Forest Officer, four Deputy RFOs, and nine forest guards. However, only two DRFOs and six guards are currently on active duty — with three guard posts and two DRFO posts lying vacant. Most alarmingly, Minyan Beat, where the tiger deaths occurred, has only two guards on duty against the sanctioned strength of five. Both guards are reportedly new recruits, having joined only a month ago.

Critical patrol lapses

The Hoogyam range shares a sensitive border with Tamil Nadu, and due to its dense terrain, demands round-the-clock vigilance. Patrolling protocols dictate morning rounds on motorbikes and night rounds using jeeps. However, lack of basic mobility resources and trained personnel has resulted in serious security lapses. Forest insiders suggest that poachers may have exploited the gap when forest staff were away attending a departmental meeting at Kollegala DCF office on June 23. Within that short window, the poisoning is suspected to have occurred.

Brewing crisis

While the forest department reels from the tiger deaths, another scandal simmers quietly: 122 contract workers in BRT Tiger Reserve — including watchers, drivers, and Anti-Poaching Camp (APC) staff — haven't received salaries for three months. Worse, the private contractors managing their employment have failed to deposit EPF and ESI dues for the past 10 months, dating back to September 2024. Despite repeated notices, including a show-cause issued on May 26, the contractors remain unpunished. According to internal sources, each contract worker earns ₹15,100 a month, inclusive of deductions for provident fund and insurance. "Forget salaries, we haven't even seen our PF money," lamented a forest watcher on condition of anonymity.

Unpaid dues

The consequences of this neglect are deadly. In December 2024, a contract forest staffer named Nanja, posted in Arepalya (Timmarajipur-Karalakette belt), died during an elephant patrol. His family is yet to receive any financial compensation, as contractors failed to activate insurance or PF claims — a violation of mandatory service conditions.

Systemic exploitation

Despite gross violations, the forest department has taken no meaningful action against defaulting contractors. It raises pressing questions about accountability, especially when the same contractors continue to manage frontline operations. In the Yelandur Wildlife Division, similar complaints have surfaced. Contract staff allege non-payment of wages for three months, despite Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs) issuing notices. Many ask: "Would senior officers tolerate three months of unpaid salary and no PF for 10 months?"

Tigers died, but so did the system

Sources said that the tiger deaths are not an isolated tragedy. They are a symptom of a larger breakdown — in staffing, policy enforcement, and frontline worker welfare. The forest department's inability to safeguard its own employees — let alone its wildlife — is now under sharp public and administrative scrutiny. An activist said, "Unless urgent reforms are initiated to fill vacancies, ensure timely salaries, equip ground staff, and hold contractors accountable, the next tragedy may not just be another tiger death — but the entire credibility of Karnataka's conservation efforts."

> **"Unless urgent reforms are initiated to fill vacancies, ensure timely salaries, equip ground staff, and hold contractors accountable, the next tragedy may claim entire credibility of Karnataka's conservation efforts**
>
> –Environmental activist

It is pay time

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

On Friday, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre clarified that the funds to pay the wages of the frontline staff of Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife division were released by the end of April and the non-payment of salaries until June constitutes a fundamental lapse in duty by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), leading to compromised patrol operations in the area.

However, a memorandum from the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Chamarajanagar office, a copy of which is with BM, indicates that the DCF office received approval for payment of wages only on July 2.

As per the OM, the head of the forest force allocated the budget under the man-animal conflict budget head on April 24, 2025, to release salaries of the frontline staff of MM Hills. Following this approval, the concerned DCF submitted the annual plan of operations to the area CCF on May 14.

The DCF received an approval letter from CCF Chamarajanagar on July 2.

However, the CCF approval date of the memorandum is mentioned as May 30.

Wildlife activists allege the memorandum is backdated, and APO was approved only after the recent deaths of five tigers in the Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary by poisoning.

"The CCF is trying to save skin by recording the memorandum with a date earlier than the actual date it was created or processed. If the DCF received the letter on July 2, the order date of May 30 is incomprehensible," said a local wildlife conservationist.

As per the memorandum, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden approved the annual financial target of Rs 566.34 lakh for the wages of outsourced employees.

"An annual action plan for ₹566.34 lakh for payment of wages of outsourced employees working in the sub-offices/anti-poaching camps of the division has been prepared and submitted to this office for approval. The annual action plan submitted by the said person (DCF) has been examined and provision has been made for payment of wages of necessary outsourced employees within the financial limit specified in the grant allocation order," noted the memorandum from the CCF office.

Officials from the Forest Department remained unavailable to comment on the issue.

Partial pay

After four months of being unpaid, the MM Hills frontline staff have now received wages for April and May. However, salaries for March and June are still pending.

"We have released the salaries of frontline staff for two months. While we were earlier under the impression that salaries from April to June are pending, we recently were told that the staff have not received compensation for March as well. We have started the process for March, and the outsourced contractor is in the process of generating the bills. However, compensation for June might take a few more days," said a senior official of MM Hills Wildlife Division.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVAM SUNDARAM S/o Arun Kumar Purbey aged about 26 years residing at House No.9,Sri Adinatha Residency,Kamdhenu Nagar,7th Main,1st Cross,B Narayanapura, B'luru-560016 wish to change my father's name from ARUN KUMAR (as per my 10th standard marks sheet) to ARUN KUMAR PURBEY (as per his KYC documents) vide affidavit dtd:02/07/2025 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru.

I, Kasturi Mallikarjunappa, W/O Mallikarjun BM, R/o "Trinco Arna" H.NO 11, Sri Aaroodha Krupa, Doddabele main road, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560060, have changed my name to Kasturi BM for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 04/07/2025 sworn before advocate and notary Ravi at Bengaluru.

I, PANCHARATHNAM NAGALAKSHMI R/o. No.7, 8th Stage, Near Srinivasa Temple, Vidyamanyanagara Andrahalli, Bengaluru- 91 have changed my name to LAKSHMI BALAJI vide Affidavit dt. 05.07.2025. sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas Bengaluru.

I, Seema Suthar D/o. Pratap Suthar, R/o. #17, 4th Floor, 2nd Cross, Jnanabharathi School Road, Chunchagatta Main Road, Bangalore 560062. I had retained my name as "Seema Suthar P" for all purposes wide affidavit no: IN-KA77749734400139X.

I, Shambhulingaswamy T, R/o. No. 748, 4th Main, 24th Cross, Vidyaranyapuram, Mysore-570008 have changed my name to SHAMBULINGA SWAMY vide Affidavit dt. 05.07.2025. sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas Bengaluru.

I, Abubakar Shabbeer s/o Shabbir Pasha and Suraiya Begum R/o #401 Site No-128 2nd Main Rd Near Meenakshi Lyt Entrance, Prakash Lyt, Varthur, B'luru-560087 have changed my name to Abubakar Shabbir for all Purposes.

I, Nikita Dadha Ravindran D/o Ravindran P R/o # 3e/22 16th Main Road 3rd Cross M L E School Muneshwara Block Girinagar Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to Nikita R for all purposes

I, Uma R/O no 95 at post Nidagundi Koppa tq Gadag 582209 in my some document my name wrongly mentioned as Uma Sarvi but my correct and actual name is Uma for all purposes

I Shemraj R/o C-102,Nagarjuna Meadows, Doddaballapura Main Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Shemraj Chandan for all purposes.

I Yesappa s/o devappa r/o #737 ashrayanagar Bengaluru-58 have changed my name to Raju D before notary HS SakaleshAradhya

During heavy rain, traffic cops cleared drains

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pattern of civic role overlap

In areas like Bellandur, Agara, and KRPuram, traffic police have filled potholes using crushed stone and construction debris. In 2023 alone, they flagged 4,545 potholes across different divisions. When the BBMP failed to respond in time, officers took matters into their own hands, patching many of the potholes themselves to ensure safe movement on city roads.

The role overlap was seen during heavy rainfall too. In flood-prone zones such as Silk Board, Rajajinagar, and Koramangala, traffic police were seen clearing blocked stormwater drains and removing silt to prevent waterlogging. Their quick action helped avoid long traffic snarls and allowed smoother vehicular flow during peak hours.

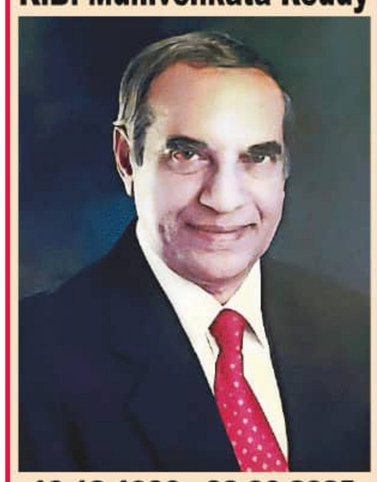
Safety is the priority

Apart from this, traffic personnel have also been clearing fallen branches, sand, mud, and stones from roads particularly after rains or roadwork. These debris, if left unattended, often lead to bottlenecks or even minor accidents. In the absence of timely BBMP intervention, traffic officers have stepped up to prevent such risks and keep traffic moving.

"Our priority is commuter safety. When there's an immediate hazard, whether it's a broken road, a fallen branch, or a flooded stretch, we cannot afford to wait," said a senior traffic official from the West Division. "We step in not because it's our duty, but because it's urgent. People's lives and traffic flow depend on timely action."

This growing trend reflects a serious gap in coordination and response from civic agencies, forcing the traffic police to step in for the sake of commuter safety and public order.

K.B. Munivenkata Reddy



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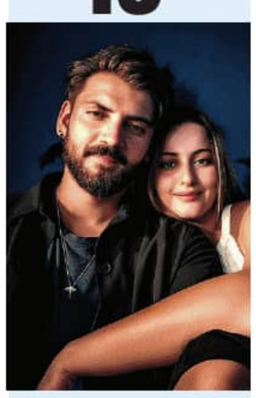
FILM PAGE 13



Pregnancy rumours brushed off with a laugh

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

VERMILION FETE DELIGHT

Our reader shares a vibrant glimpse of vermilion boxes on display at the annual fete held in their gated community complex. The neatly arranged boxes, glowing in rich red hues, reflect both tradition and festivity capturing the spirit of cultural celebration and communal togetherness that the event brings year after year.

The picture was clicked by reader **T Prakash**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

JC road chaos: Months of delays choke Bengaluru's main artery

Frustrated commuters demand urgency and accountability as redevelopment drags, crippling traffic and livelihoods across key southern Bengaluru neighbourhoods

Once a key arterial link connecting southern Bengaluru to the city's core, JC Road has now become a symbol of civic apathy and poor planning. For over six months, the vital stretch has been under redevelopment, but with no end in sight, commuters say they are being pushed to the edge.

Running from Lalbagh West Gate to Corporation Circle, JC Road is a crucial route for thousands of commuters from Jayanagar, JP Nagar, Banashankari, and nearby areas. It connects them to important destinations such as the Kempegowda Bus Terminal (Majestic), government offices, educational institutions, and major commercial hubs in the city centre.

However, the prolonged and disorganised redevelopment work has brought traffic to a crawl and disrupted daily life for residents and businesses alike. Traffic snarls, dug-up roads, incomplete footpaths, poor lighting, unbarricaded work zones, and uncoordinated utility work have all contributed to the chaos.

"It's frustrating that even after more than six months, there is no indication of when the work will be completed," said Mahendra Chowhan, a resident of Basavanagudi. "A stretch as important as JC Road should have been prioritised with round-the-clock work. During peak hours, it takes close to an hour to cover the short distance from Lalbagh West Gate to Corporation. It feels like the authorities are completely indifferent to our daily struggles."

The redevelopment began in early January under the BBMP's infrastructure improvement initiative. While the plan was initially welcomed by commuters, the sluggish execution and lack of coordination have drawn sharp criticism. Many now question whether the civic body had a concrete plan in place before digging up the road.

Rajesh S., a software engineer who travels from Jayanagar to Shivajinagar daily, shared similar frustrations. "From Minerva Circle to Corporation, traffic barely moves. What once took 15 minutes now stretches to an hour. It's like the authorities have completely forgotten we exist."

Local businesses, particularly in Chickpet and surrounding areas, say they are suffering heavy losses. "Deliveries are delayed, customers are avoiding the area, and daily footfall has dropped sharply," said Priya Rao, a small business owner. "It's not just about inconvenience anymore—it's affecting our income."

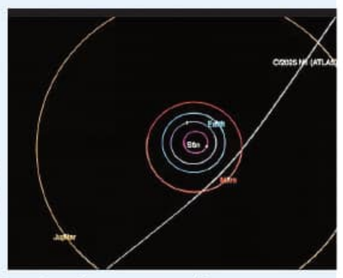
Traffic police officials said the congestion on JC Road is now spilling over to adjacent roads such as KR Road, Mission Road, and Lalbagh Road, worsening the overall traffic condition in the central parts of the city.

With BBMP remaining silent on the project's completion date, residents and business owners are demanding immediate clarity, better planning, and accountability from the civic body. — **BMB**

MAHENDRA CHOWHAN

From Minerva Circle to Corporation, peak-hour traffic now crawls painfully through dug-up chaos

DID YOU KNOW?



Astronomers have detected a rare interstellar visitor named 3I/ATLAS, only the third such object ever observed entering our solar system. Spotted on Tuesday by a NASA-funded ATLAS (Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System) telescope in Rio Hurtado, Chile, the comet's unusual trajectory suggests it hails from beyond the solar system, likely the direction of the Milky Way's centre. Currently about 420 million miles (670 million kilometres) from Earth, the comet is hurtling through space at 60 kilometres per second. Scientists are eager to study it further using larger telescopes to determine its composition. According to University of Hawaii astronomer Larry Denneau, 3I/ATLAS shares similarities with 2019's interstellar comet 2I/Borisov, but appears significantly larger—possibly 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) in diameter. Though it now shows only a faint coma (a cloud of gas and dust), this could dramatically increase as it nears the Sun. Its closest approach—about 130 million miles (210 million km) from the Sun—is expected around October 30, but the comet will remain safely distant from Earth, never coming closer than 150 million miles (240 million km). — **AP**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

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India refutes claims about White House denying Jaishankar's request to meet Trump

Post
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#BREAKING: White House denies Indian FM Jaishankar's request to meet Donald Trump due to busy schedule.
FAKE

India on Friday refuted claims that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's request to meet US President Donald Trump was denied by the White House due to his busy schedule, terming it as "fake news." In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Factcheck unit stated, "CLAIM: White House denies Indian FM Jaishankar's request to meet Donald Trump due to busy schedule. This is FAKE News. This CLAIM is false."

MEA's statement comes after a user on social media platform X claimed that the White House denied Jaishankar's request to meet Trump due to his "busy schedule." Jaishankar was on an official visit to the US from June 30 - July 2 at the invitation of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. During the visit, he participated in the Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting (QFMM).

In a post on X, Jaishankar stated, "Just finished a very productive meeting of Quad Foreign Ministers in Washington DC. Discussed how to make Quad more focused and impactful on contemporary opportunities and challenges. Today's gathering will strengthen strategic stability in the Indo - Pacific and keep it free and open." Jaishankar met with Rubio on the sidelines of QFFM and discussed bilateral partnership between both countries in the field of security, critical technologies, connectivity, energy and mobility. In a social media post, he said that he "shared perspectives on regional and global developments."

Foreign Minister Jaishankar took to X to give details on 'productive meeting' with Quad leaders on strengthening cooperation, enhancing defence ties, boosting energy partnerships, and deepening collaboration on counterterrorism and technology

Jaishankar also held a meeting with FBI Director Kash Patel in Washington DC on Wednesday (local time) and expressed appreciation for cooperation between India and the US in countering organised crime, drug trafficking and terrorism.

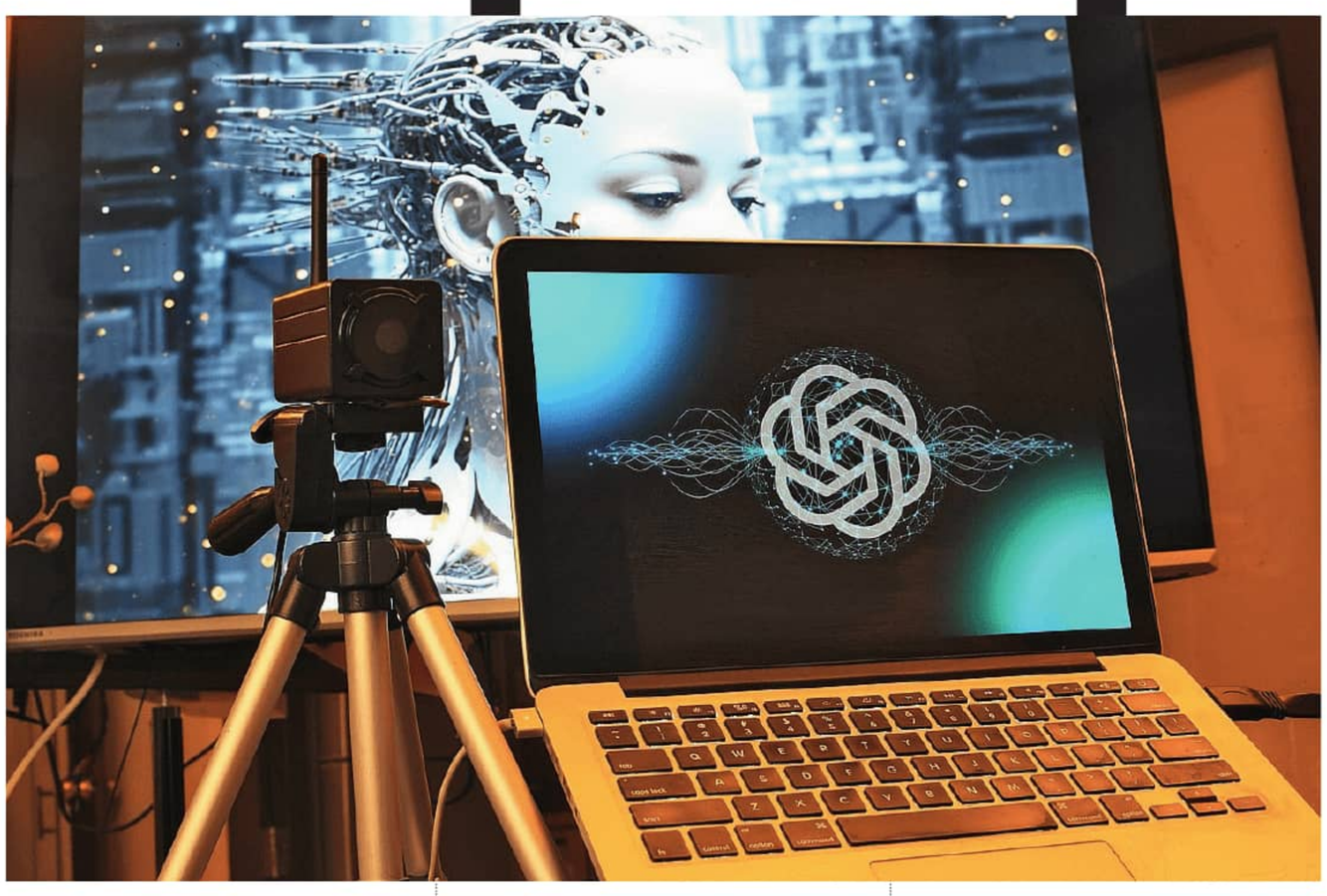
In his meeting with US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, Jaishankar said that the duo had a "good exchange" with her on the global situation and bilateral cooperation.

On Tuesday (local time), Jaishankar held a meeting with US Energy Secretary Chris Wright in Washington, DC and spoke about the energy transformation underway in India. The two leaders discussed opportunities for a deeper energy partnership between the two nations. The External Affairs Minister also held discussions with US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth and held discussion on advancing defence partnership between two nations, building on growing convergences of interests, capabilities and responsibilities.

Before arriving in Washington, DC, Jaishankar was in New York, where he inaugurated an exhibition at the United Nations on 'The Human Cost of Terrorism,' highlighting the need to expose state sponsorship of terrorism. — **ANI**

Perfect prompt

Get the most out of ChatGPT and other AI chatbots with better prompts



If you're using ChatGPT but getting mediocre results, don't blame the chatbot. Instead, try sharpening up your prompts.

Generative AI chatbots such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini and Anthropic's Claude have become hugely popular and embedded into daily life for many users. They're powerful tools that can help us with so many different tasks.

What you shouldn't overlook, however, is that a chatbot's output depends on what you tell it to do, and how. There's a lot you can do to improve the prompt — also known as the request or query — that you type in.

Here are some tips for general users on how to get higher quality chatbot replies, based on tips from the AI model makers:

ChatGPT can't read your mind. You need to give it clear and explicit instructions on what you need it to do.

Unlike a standard Google search, you can't just ask for an answer based on some keywords. And you'll need to do more than just tell it to, say, "design a logo" because you'll end up with a generic design. Flesh it out with details on the company that the logo is for, the industry it will be used in and the design style you're going for.

"Ensure your prompts are clear, specific, and provide enough context for the model to understand what you are asking," ChatGPT maker OpenAI advises on its help page. "Avoid ambiguity and be as precise as possible to get accurate and relevant responses."

Think of using a chatbot like holding a conversation with a friend. You probably wouldn't end your chat after the first answer. Ask follow-up questions or refine your original prompt.

OpenAI's advice: "Adjust the wording, add more context, or simplify the request as needed to improve the results."

You might have to have an extended back-and-forth that

Chatbots' output depends on what you tell it to do, and how. There's a lot you can do to improve the query you type in

elicits better output. Google advises that you'll need to try a "few different approaches" if you don't get what you're looking for the first time.

"Fine-tune your prompts if the results don't meet your expectations or if you believe there's room for improvement," Google recommends in its prompting guide for Gemini. "Use follow-up prompts and an iterative process of review and refinement to yield better results." When making your request, you can also ask an AI large language model to respond in a specific voice or style.

"Words like formal, informal, friendly, professional, humorous, or serious can help guide the model," OpenAI writes.

You also tell the chatbot the type of person the response is aimed at. These parameters will help determine the chatbot's overall approach to its answer, as well as the tone, vocabulary and level of detail. For example, you could ask ChatGPT to describe quantum physics in the style of a distinguished professor talking to a class of graduate students. Or you could ask it to explain the same topic in the voice of a teacher talking to a group of schoolchildren.

However, there's plenty of debate among AI experts about these methods. On one hand, they can make answers more precise and less generic. But an output that adopts an overly empathetic or authoritative tone raises concerns about the text sounding too manipulative.

Give the chatbot all the background behind the reason for your request.

Don't just ask: "Help me plan a weeklong trip to London."

ChatGPT will respond with a generic list of London's greatest hits: historic sites on one day, museums and famous parks on another, trendy neighborhoods and optional excursions to Windsor Castle. It's nothing you couldn't get from a guidebook or travel website, but just a little better organized.

But if, say, you're a theatre-loving family, try this: "Help me plan a weeklong trip to London in July, for a family of four. We don't want too many historic sites, but want to see a lot of West End theatre shows. We don't drink alcohol so we can skip pubs. Can you recommend mid-range budget hotels where we can stay and cheap places to eat for dinner?" This prompt returns a more tailored and detailed answer: a list of four possible hotels within walking distance of the theater district, a seven-day itinerary with cheap or low-cost ideas for things to do during the day, suggested shows each evening, and places for an affordable family dinner.

You can tell any of the chatbots just how extensive you want the answer to be. Sometimes, less is more.

Try nudging the model to provide clear and succinct responses by imposing a limit. For example, tell the chatbot to reply with only 300 words, or to come up with five bullet points.

Want to know all that there is to know about quantum physics? ChatGPT will provide a high-level "grand tour" of the topic that includes terms like wavefunctions and qubits. But ask for a 150-word explanation and you'll get an easily digestible summary about how it's the science of the tiniest particles that also underpins a lot of modern technology like lasers and smartphones." **AP**

On a high, Foxconn cautions about geopolitical, exchange rate risks

Taiwan's Foxconn, the world's largest contract electronics maker, reported record second-quarter revenue on strong demand for artificial intelligence products but cautioned about geopolitical and exchange rate headwinds.

Revenue for Apple's biggest iPhone assembler jumped 15.82% year-on-year to T$1.797 trillion, Foxconn said in a statement on Saturday, beating the T$1.7896 trillion LSEG SmartEstimate, which gives greater weight to forecasts from analysts who are more consistently accurate.

Robust AI demand led to strong revenue growth for its cloud and networking products division, said Foxconn, whose customers include AI chip firm Nvidia.

Smart consumer electronics, which includes iPhones, posted "flattish" year-on-year revenue growth affected by exchange rates, it said.

June revenue rose 10.09% on year to T$540.237 billion, a record high for that month.

Foxconn said it anticipates growth in this quarter from the previous three months and from the same period last year but cautioned about potential risks to growth. "The impact of evolving global political and economic conditions and exchange rate changes will need continued close monitoring," it said without elaborating.

U.S. President Donald Trump said he had signed letters to 12 countries outlining the various tariff levels they would face on goods they export to the United States, with the "take it or leave it" offers to be sent out on Monday.

The Chinese city of Zhengzhou is home to the world's largest iPhone manufacturing facility, operated by Foxconn. **Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

Microsoft shuts down Pak office

Microsoft has officially shut down its office in Pakistan and laid off five employees, marking a significant development in the country's tech sector, as reported by Dawn.

The move, which sparked speculation on social media, was first brought to public attention by a LinkedIn post from Jawad Rehman, the former head of Microsoft Pakistan. Citing insider information, he claimed the tech giant had "officially closed its operations" in the country.

While Microsoft maintained a small on-ground presence in Pakistan until recently, most of its operations were already being managed by foreign offices and local partners, according to Dawn. **ANI**

IT sector mixed bag

The Indian Information and Technology (IT) sector will deliver a mixed performance in the first quarter of Financial Year (FY) 2026, with tier-1 companies likely to post muted revenue growth, while mid-tier firms are set to outperform, according to a report by HDFC Securities.

The report further added that despite ongoing global economic uncertainty and subdued discretionary spending due to US tariff measures and broader macroeconomic challenges, the deterioration in demand has been lower than initially anticipated. This has allowed companies to maintain their full-year FY26 guidance.

"There is a huge cross-currency tailwind in the quarter which will result in strong USD growth QoQ," the report added.

"Factors such as US tariff measures and broader macroeconomic challenges may limit discretionary spending, but the demand deterioration has been lower vs expectation at the start of the quarter," the report added. **ANI**

BEML opens swanky warehouse

Reaffirming its commitment to positioning Bengaluru as a global aerospace hub, BEML Limited inaugurated its newly built state-of-the-art warehousing facility, spread over 0.12 acres, at the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) Aerospace Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Bengaluru.

The facility was inaugurated by Shantanu Roy, Chairman and Managing Director, BEML, in the presence of Functional Directors, senior officials from BEML, and dignitaries from KIADB, an official release added. In a strategic move to bolster its Aerospace ambitions, the foundation stone for Phase II of the project, which will see the development of a 1.15 acres of land facility in the same SEZ, was also laid.

BEML currently holds a total of 25 acres of land in the Aerospace SEZ, which it plans to develop into a vibrant industrial hub catering to the fast-growing defence and aviation sectors. **ANI**

HEALTH TIP: Water keeps you hydrated, and will flush out every toxin which will boost your metabolic process

Green tea is famous for its abundance of catechins, which help shield your liver from oxidative stress

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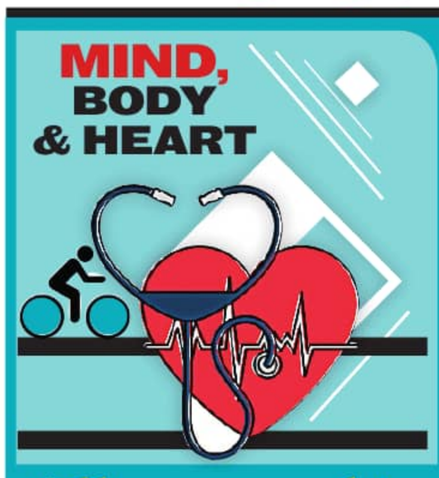


All you need to know about...

Laughter

Even fake helps
Laughter isn't just a spontaneous expression of joy — it may also be a powerful tool for better health, even when forced.

Animal instinct
Humans aren't the only species that laugh: lions laugh when courting mates, chimpanzees giggle during physical bonding and rats emit laughter-like sounds when tickled. However, human laughter is unique in that it is deeply social. Unlike other animals, people often laugh in groups, making laughter not just a personal emotion but a collective behavior that can influence well-being.

Role in health
A growing body of research suggests that laughter, whether spontaneous or deliberate, may play a significant role in physical health. In a Japanese study that followed adults over 40 for an average of 5.4 years, those who laughed less than once a month had a 95 percent higher risk of death from all causes and a 62 percent higher risk of death from cardiovascular disease than those who laughed at least once a week. Another survey of Japanese adults aged 65 and older found that women who rarely or never laughed had a 78 percent higher risk of poor health compared to women who laughed daily.

More pronounced in men
While the effect was less pronounced in men, a similar trend was observed. In a follow-up study over three years, people who rarely laughed were found to be 42 percent more likely to develop functional disabilities — conditions that affect a person's ability to perform normal physical, mental or sensory activities.
Notably, laughing with others was found to be more beneficial than laughing alone.
After six years, people who laughed frequently with others had a 23 percent lower risk of disability, and those who laughed with friends had a 30 percent lower risk compared to those who laughed alone.

— KoreaTimes

CRAVING FOR CHOCOLATE?

Well, we have this Chocolate Day covered for you with 3 recipes

EGGLESS CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE CAKE

INGREDIENT
- All-Purpose Flour: 1 cup
- Powdered Sugar: cup
- Baking Powder: 1 tsp
- Baking Soda: ½ tsp
- Coffee Powder: 1 tsp
- Cocoa Powder: ¼ cup
- Curd: ½ cup
- Refined Oil: ½ cup
- Milk: 1/2 cup
- Dark Chocolate: 1 cup, chopped
- Fresh Cream: ½ cup
- Butter: 1 tsp
- Dark Chocolate: ¼ cup, sliced
- Sugar Syrup: 2 tbsp

METHOD
- Take a 5-litre pressure cooker. Add salt and spread it evenly across the base. Close the lid (without whistle or gasket) and preheat on medium flame for 6–7 minutes.
- While the cooker heats, whisk curd and oil in a large bowl for 2–3 minutes.
- In a separate bowl, sift in all-purpose flour, powdered sugar, cocoa powder, coffee powder, baking powder, and baking soda.
- Gradually mix the dry ingredients into the curd mixture using the cut-and-fold method.
- Pour in the milk and beat gently for 3–4 minutes — do not overmix. Your batter is now ready.
- Grease a cake tin with oil. Dust it with flour and shake off the excess to ensure even coating.
- Pour the batter into the prepared tin and level it out.
- Place the tin on a stand or plate inside the preheated cooker. Cover (again, no whistle or ring) and bake on low flame for 40–45 minutes.
- Check doneness with a toothpick — if it comes out clean, the cake is baked. If not, bake for another 5–6 minutes.
- Once done, let it rest for a few minutes. Loosen edges with a knife, invert onto a plate, and let it cool completely.
- Warm the fresh cream slightly. Add chopped dark chocolate and butter to it. Stir continuously for 2–3 minutes until smooth and glossy. Set aside.
- Slice the cooled cake into two layers using a thread.
- Sprinkle 1 tbsp sugar syrup on each layer.
- Spread a layer of ganache on the bottom half and place the second half on top, soaked side facing up.
- Cover the top and sides of the cake with the remaining ganache using a palette knife. Decorate with sliced dark chocolate and chill the cake in the fridge for 2 hours to set!

EGGLESS CHOCOLATE GLUCOSE BISCUITS NO BAKE CAKE

INGREDIENT
- Glucose Biscuits: 63–64, crushed + extra whole biscuits for layering
- Milk: 250 ml
- Chocolate: 150 gm, melted
- Cashew: A handful, roughly chopped
- Raisins: A handful
- Powdered Sugar: As needed, for dusting
- Colored Vermicelli: For garnish
- Chocolate Sauce: For garnish

METHOD
- In a large mixing bowl, add 63–64 crushed glucose biscuits.
- Pour in the milk and mix well to form a thick, smooth paste.
- Dust a baking tin with powdered sugar and tap to coat the base and sides evenly.
- Spread half of the biscuit paste into the tin, pressing it down to form the first layer.
- Pour a layer of melted chocolate over it, then sprinkle some cashew and raisins.
- Add the remaining biscuit paste to create a second layer.
- Top with more melted chocolate, followed by another sprinkle of nuts and raisins.
- Arrange a layer of whole glucose biscuits on top. Finish with a final drizzle of melted chocolate.
- Place the tin in the freezer and chill for 2 hours.
- After freezing, let it sit at room temperature for about 15 minutes.
- Dust the top with powdered sugar, then decorate with colored vermicelli and a drizzle of chocolate sauce. The dish is ready to serve!

CHOCOLATE PIZZA

INGREDIENT
- All Purpose Flour: 1½ cups
- Milk: ½ cup, warm
- Yeast: 2 tsp
- Sugar: 1 tbsp
- Milk Powder: 1 tbsp
- Water: cup, lukewarm
- Butter: 1 tbsp
- Maize Flour: as required, for dusting
- Chocolate Spread: as required
- Dairy Milk Silk Chocolate: as required, grated
- Strawberries: as required, sliced or halved
- Strawberry Wafers: as required, crushed
- Chocolate Kisses: as required

METHOD
- In a bowl, dissolve 1 tbsp sugar in ½ cup warm milk. Add 2 tsp yeast and let it rest until frothy (about 10 minutes).
- Add 1½ cups all-purpose flour, 1 tbsp milk powder, and cup lukewarm water to the yeast mixture. Mix until it forms a sticky dough.
- Transfer the dough to a clean surface and knead by stretching and folding for 10–15 minutes, until it becomes soft and elastic. Add 1 tbsp butter and knead for another 2–3 minutes.
- Grease a bowl and the dough lightly with butter. Cover and let it rise in a warm place for 1 hour, or until doubled in size.
- Punch the dough to release air. Sprinkle some maize flour on the surface and knead for 2 minutes. Divide the dough in a 60:40 ratio.
- Take the smaller portion and roll it to about 90% the size of your pizza tray. Lightly roast this base on a tava for 1 minute.
- Roll the larger dough ball to about 110% the tray size. Place it on a greased pizza tray and prick it with a fork. Spread a generous layer of chocolate spread over it.
- Place the roasted base on top of the chocolate-covered one. Seal the edges by brushing water along the sides and pressing gently.
- Bake in a preheated oven at 240°C for 12 minutes. Remove and top with grated Dairy Milk Silk chocolate, then bake again for 3 more minutes until gooey and melty.
- Top with crushed strawberry wafers, fresh strawberries, a drizzle of chocolate sauce, and a few chocolate kisses. Serve warm and dig into the chocolatey goodness!

Recipes from 'The Tastes of India Podcast' on Audible

Fitness secrets

Nargis says she wouldn't recommend her style of rigorous detox to everyone

Actress Nargis Fakhri recently made a comeback with her film 'Housefull 5' alongside Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, and Sanjay Dutt. She often grabs attention from fans and social media users for her fitness and mindful approach to health and wellness. The actress has now opened up about her fitness secrets.

In a recent conversation with Hauterrfly, Nargis spoke about her rigorous detox ritual: "I do fasting twice a year — no food at all, just water for nine days. It's very difficult. But once I'm done, I'm telling you, you look snatched. I mean, the jawline is out, the face is glowing. But I wouldn't recommend it."

Nargis clarified that her wellness philosophy goes far beyond extreme diets or fads. She admitted that there is no shortcut to achieving fitness, and that the process takes a lot of time. She also emphasised the importance of getting proper sleep in order to appear healthy. "I sleep like eight hours a night. I also try to hydrate. Then also, my food choices — like, I want foods that are nutritious and have vitamins and minerals in it," she explained. Actresses such as Kareena Kapoor Khan, Anushka Sharma, and Mumtaz have also been vocal about the benefits of good sleep and intermittent fasting. Several celebrities, including Tamannaah Bhatia, have spoken about the significance of staying hydrated to maintain a fresh and healthy appearance.

—ETimes

Gripping tale in the forest

JUNGLE MANGAL

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Sakshit Kumar
- **ACTORS** Yash Shetty, Harshita Ramachandra, Ugram Manju, Deepak Rai Panaje, and Bala Rajwadi
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 92 minutes

Debutant director Rakshit Kumar, who has been trying to realise his dream of becoming a director for over eight years, has done an excellent job. Rakshit has stuck to the story and ensured all actors, including child artistes, get equal importance. The lush surrounds of Western Ghats and its waterfalls are a visual treat. The screenplay is narrated in a non-linear style and is interesting, especially the climax.

The movie is set against the backdrop of a village at the foothills of the Western Ghats. It begins on April 5, 2020. Praveen (Yash Shetty), an unemployed youth who is in love with Divya (Harshita Ramahandra), asks her to meet him immediately. Initially, Divya hesitates, but succumbs to his pressure and blackmail. Both go to a secluded place in the forest. Divya tells Praveen that she has accepted another marriage proposal recommended by her uncle Jagga (Bala Rajawadi). While Praveen was in a dilemma, his friend calls him over the phone and narrates how a group of villagers are waiting to catch them. Praveen asks Divya to remain at the same spot till he returns. While Praveen is away, Divya encounters Babu (Ugram Manju), a notorious person. You have to watch the movie to know who Babu is and what happens to Divya and Praveen.

Yash Shetty and Harshita Ramachandra have both done equally well with their roles. Ugram Manju, as a personification of all bad habits, is convincing. His dialogue delivery and gestures are appreciable. Bala Rajawadi, Deepak Rai Panaje, who plays the Guruji, have provided good support.

Music by Prasad K Shetty and Poornachandra Tejaswi is very good. Cinematographer Vishnu Prasad P has done a commendable job behind the camera.

The movie is worth a watch for those who crave to watch crime thriller movies.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

JLo shares details of 'very difficult time'

Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez has furnished details about the "very difficult time" after her split from Ben Affleck in her latest song. The 55-year-old singer/actress split from the Hollywood actor in April 2024 after less than two years of marriage and the break-up came shortly after she cancelled her 'This Is Me ... Now' tour to spend more time with her family, reports 'Female First UK'.

However, she is now preparing to hit the road again and she's been working on new music, which she debuted at a fan listening party in Los Angeles. An attendee from the show told US Weekly one of Jennifer's new songs called 'Wreckage of You' touches on the tough times she's been through recently, saying, "'Wreckage of You' is a pop ballad that she told us she co-wrote and recorded two weeks ago. She said she was lying in bed after a long day of tour rehearsals when the idea of the song came to her". They continued, "She mentioned how last year was a very difficult time for her both personally and professionally. She had to cancel her tour and really focus on herself. Fast-forward to one year later, and she feels better and stronger than ever..."

—IANS

Weekly family ritual

Priyanka Chopra has a mandatory weekly tradition to carry out on Sunday mornings with Nick Jonas and her daughter Malti Marie. Talking to PEOPLE Magazine, the 'Citadel' actress revealed that the family loves to snuggle, and despite working on Sundays, she managed to get some time from her husband and daughter.

In an interview with a media portal, the actress shared that "Sunday morning snuggles in bed" are the norm for her family and are also considered a weekly tradition that she continues with Nick Jonas and Malti Marie.

She further added, "They have to happen. It's mandatory." Despite difficult work schedules too, the actress manages to get some love from her family. "Seven a.m., but we got 'em in."

Moreover, Priyanka went on to add, "Being home with my family. ... The biggest luxury in our lives is being able to waste time together or spend time together and just be languid in it and not worry about having to go somewhere."

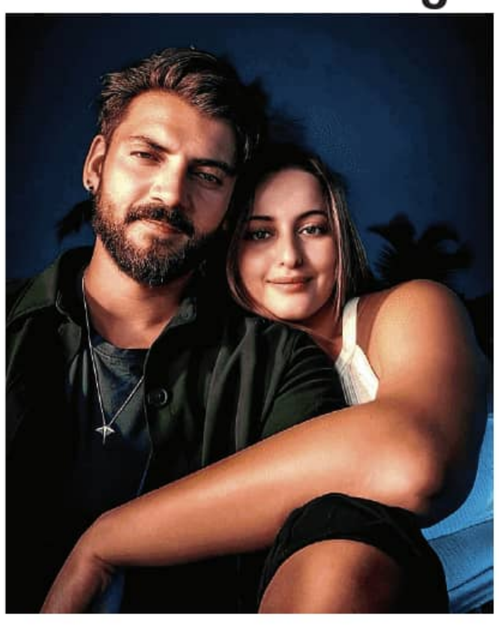
When asked about her guilty pleasure, the star hilariously replied that she loves to waste time. She said, "That one hour you might get when it's quiet in the house and you get to watch Love Island's new season with a glass of wine or maybe even a book [when] I am supposed to be reading my scripts."

—ETimes

Pregnancy rumours brushed off with a laugh

Sonakshi Sinha has once again addressed the pregnancy rumours, but this time, with a dose of humour and a screenshot on her social media. On July 4, 2025, Sonakshi shared a screenshot of her WhatsApp conversation with husband Zaheer Iqbal, blaming him for the speculation surrounding her weight gain and supposed pregnancy.

In the screenshot posted to her social media story, Sonakshi revealed a late-night exchange with Zaheer, whom she affectionately saved in her contacts as "BRAT." The conversation began with Zaheer asking, "Hungry?" to which Sonakshi replied, "Not at all. Stop feeding me." When Zaheer teased, "I thought holiday had started," Sonakshi retorted, "I literally just ate dinner in front of you, stop it." The chat ended with a sweet exchange of "I love you" and "I love you more."



Sonakshi captioned the post:

"The reason why everyone thinks I'm preggos. Stop it @iamzahero." Her lighthearted jab at her husband's feeding habits struck a chord with fans, many of whom praised her for addressing the rumours with wit and warmth.

— ETimes

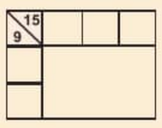
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

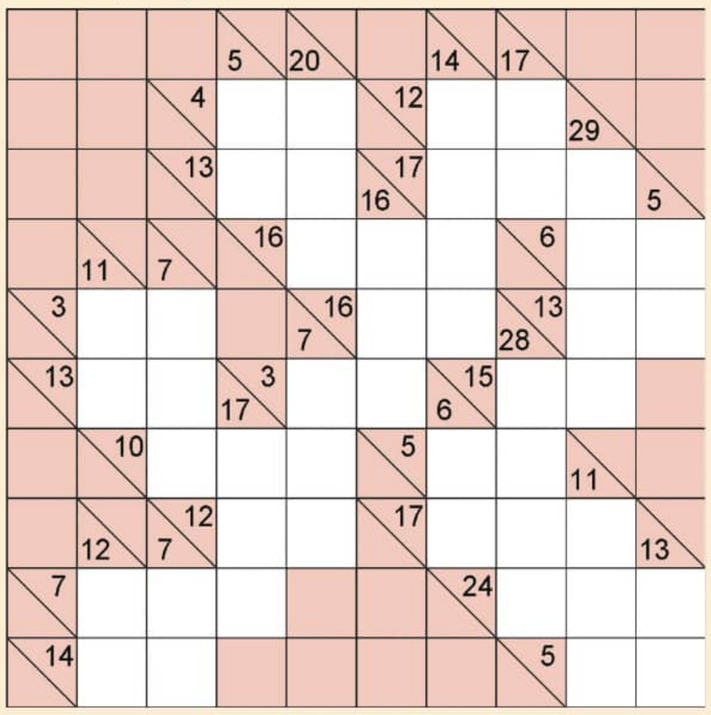
(11^2^1 * 11^1^2 * 11^-2^1) / 11^-1^2= ?

Kakuro

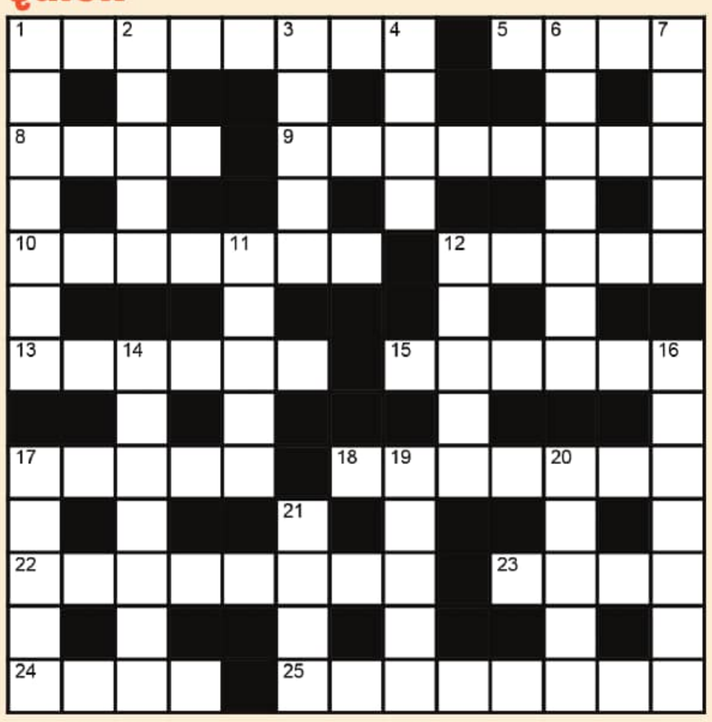
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Grotesque misrepresentation or imitation? (8)
5 Listen (4)
8 Lie in the sun (4)
9 Most delicious (8)
10 Deal illegally in (7)
12 Sticky dried fruit (5)
13 A 5-cent American coin (6)
15 Spirited lass, tomboy (6)
17 Avarice (5)
18 Calligraphy (7)
22 Guard or watchman (8)
23 Autumn in New York (4)
24 Leave out (4)
25 Passed away (8)

DOWN

1 Market near Brigade Road (7)
2 All __ ___ : confused ? (2,3)
3 Digital pens (5)
4 Hindu God of death (4)
6 Put up (7)
7 Duty rosters (5)
11 Evil spirit (5)
12 Loincloth (5)
14 Capital of Tamil Nadu (7)
16 Fussed over details (7)
17 Relish (5)
19 Survivor (5)
20 Mosque leaders? (5)
21 Author __ Blyton (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS G

OA OU VWZGIJMED BWV FEOKQDH HWE NIA EUIG AW ABOZNU, IRIZ ABI LWUA CUAWZOUBOZN.

Linemaro

Your smile can make a flower blossom

Mindchow

There is no such thing on earth as an uninteresting subject; the only thing that can exist is an uninterested person

Joke of the day

To find if a man is honest, ask him. If he says 'yes', he is a crook

Loop

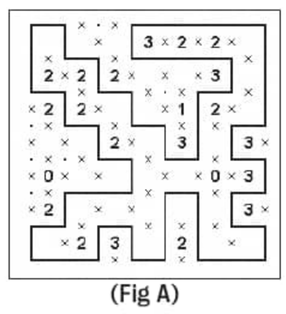
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

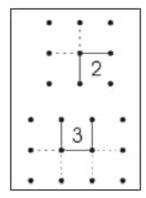
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

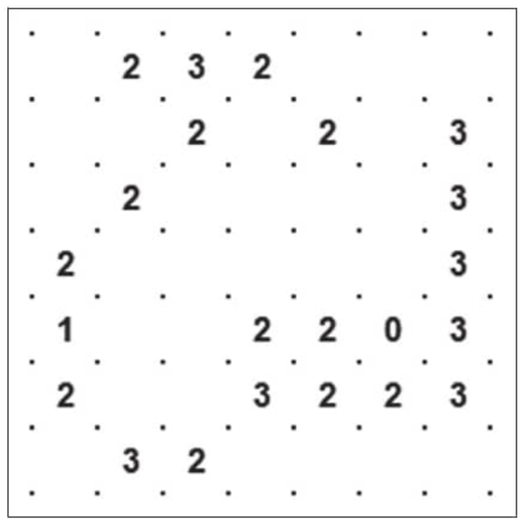
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



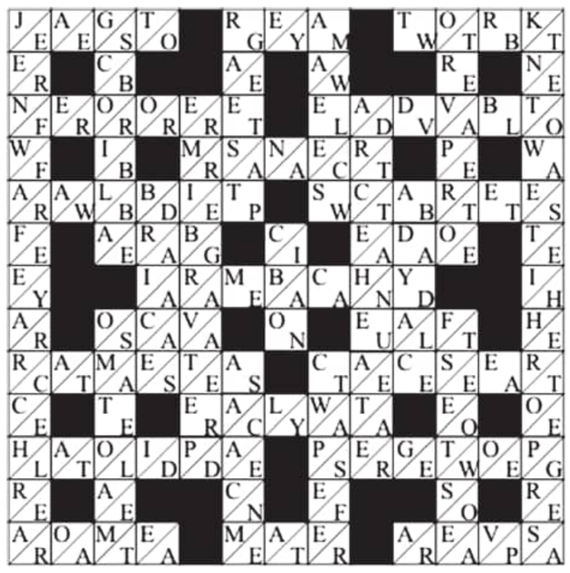
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



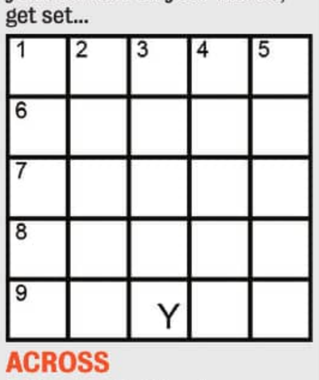
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

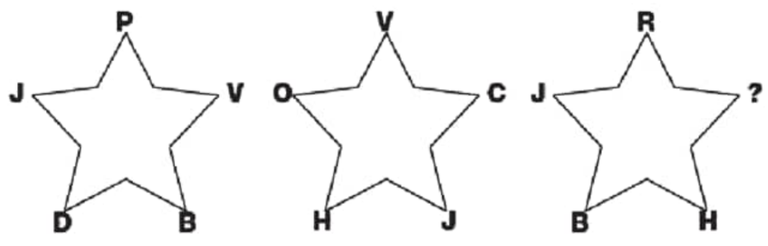
1 Go see; 6 I fund; 7 If Ves; 8 Amora; 9 Alloy

DOWN

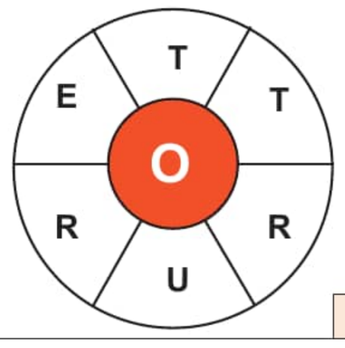
1 Al off; 2 Uri go; 3 One VY; 4 Medea; 5 Sails

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last star?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1				4	2		
			5		6			9
5		9				6		
8	5			1			3	
			8		3			
	2			4			8	7
		8				5		2
6			7		1			
		7	4				6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 22

4 5 6 7

Medium = 18

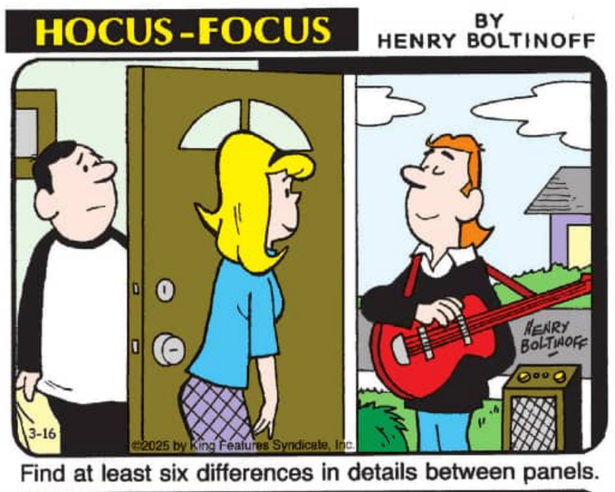
5 6 6 6

Hard = 9

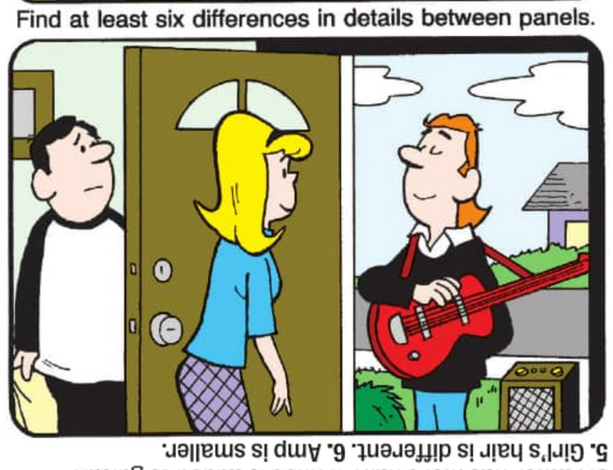
4 5 8 9

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



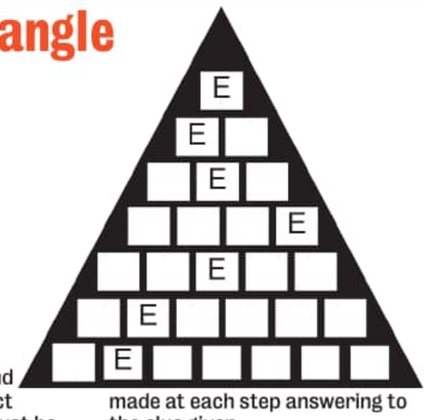
Differences: 1. House is smaller. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Father has more hair. 4. Knob is added to guitar. 5. Girl's hair is different. 6. Amp is smaller.

Riddler

What connects these four things? Carrot, Hurts, Jewel and Om

Alpha triangle

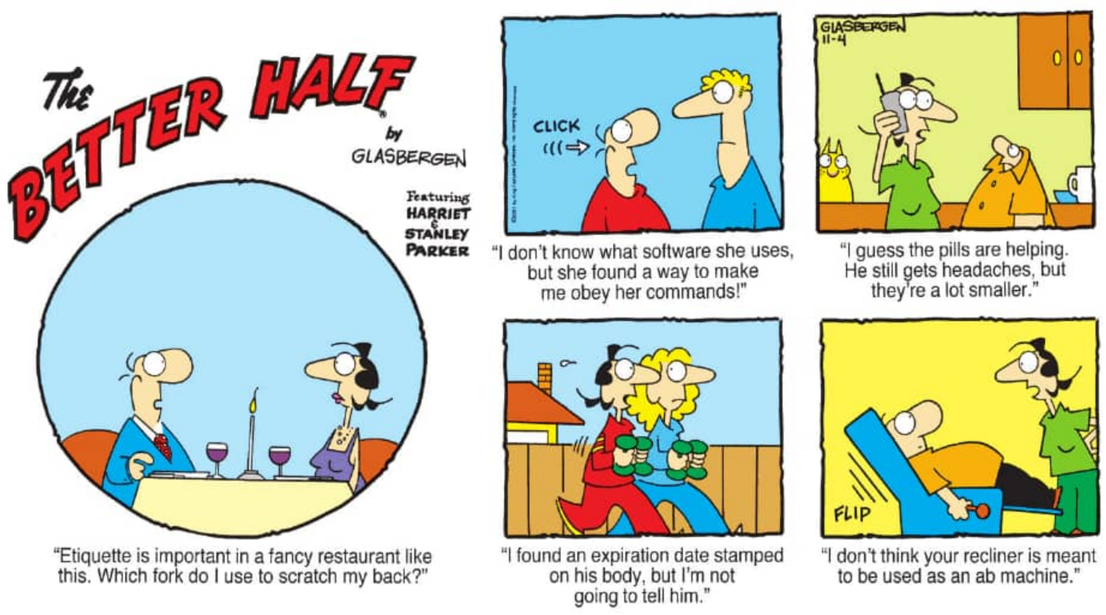
1 Second vowel
2 Editor, abbr.
3 Medical, abbr.
4 Titled lady
5 Alter
6 Humble
7 Terrorized



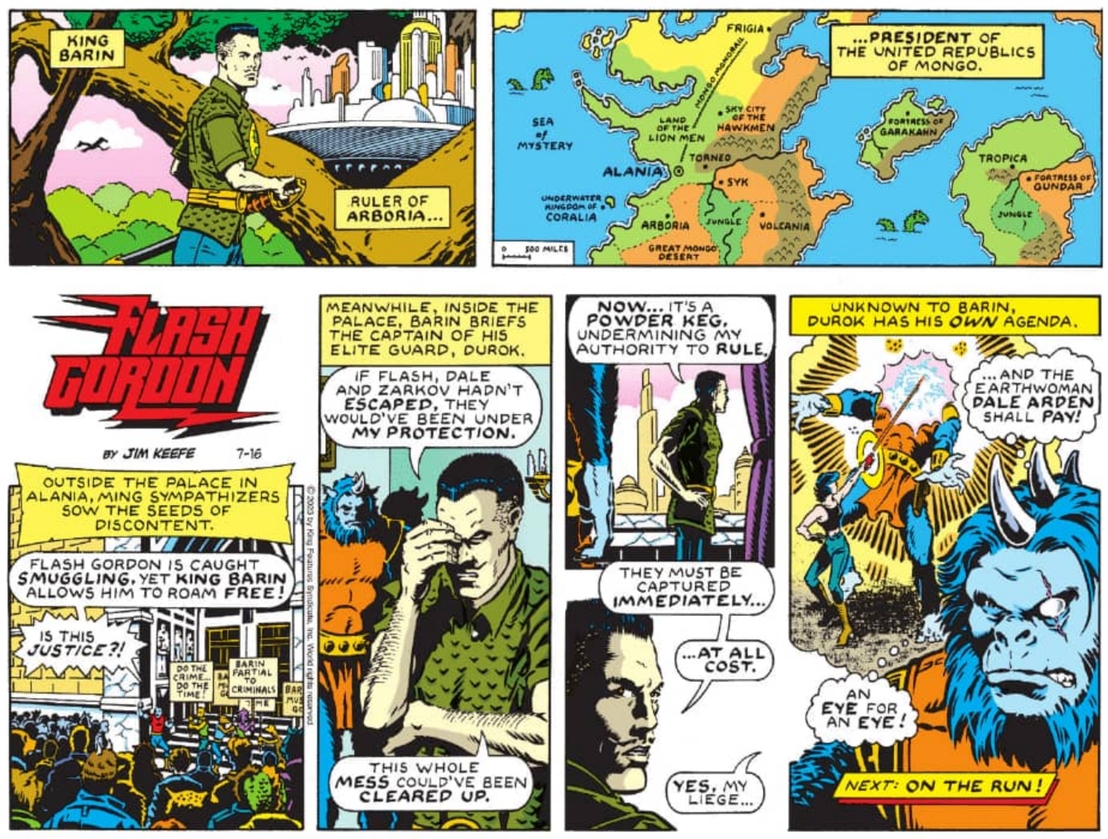
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"Etiquette is important in a fancy restaurant like this. Which fork do I use to scratch my back?"
CLICK
"I don't know what software she uses, but she found a way to make me obey her commands!"
GLASBERGEN 11-4
"I guess the pills are helping. He still gets headaches, but they're a lot smaller."
"I found an expiration date stamped on his body, but I'm not going to tell him."
FLIP
"I don't think your recliner is meant to be used as an ab machine."

BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HAMMIE?
THINKING.
THINKING ABOUT WHAT?
TODAY.
WHAT ABOUT TODAY?
THAT IN A FEW YEARS, WE'LL ALL LOOK BACK ON IT AND LAUGH.
LOOK BACK AT WHAT? LAUGH AT WHAT??
REALISTICALLY, FIVE YEARS.
TEN AT THE MOST, DEPENDING ON THE DAMAGE.
DARRYL?!!
1/26


FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
7-16
KING BARIN
RULER OF ARBORIA...
...PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLICS OF MONGO.
FRIGIA
SEA of MYSTERY
LAND OF THE LION MEN
SKY CITY OF THE HAWKMEN
FORTRESS OF GARAKAHN
TROPICA
FORTRESS OF GUNDAR
TORNEG
SYK
ALANIA
UNDERWATER KINGDOM OF CORALIA
ARBORIA
JUNGLE
VOLCANIA
GREAT MONGO DESERT
OUTSIDE THE PALACE IN ALANIA, MING SYMPATHIZERS SOW THE SEEDS OF DISCONTENT.
FLASH GORDON IS CAUGHT SMUGGLING, YET KING BARIN ALLOWS HIM TO ROAM FREE!
IS THIS JUSTICE?!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE PALACE, BARIN BRIEFS THE CAPTAIN OF HIS ELITE GUARD, DUROK.
IF FLASH, DALE AND ZARKOV HADN'T ESCAPED, THEY WOULD'VE BEEN UNDER MY PROTECTION.
THIS WHOLE MESS COULD'VE BEEN CLEARED UP.
NOW... IT'S A POWDER KEG, UNDERMINING MY AUTHORITY TO RULE.
THEY MUST BE CAPTURED IMMEDIATELY...
...AT ALL COST.
YES, MY LIEGE...
UNKNOWN TO BARIN, DUROK HAS HIS OWN AGENDA.
...AND THE EARTHWOMAN PALE ARDEN SHALL PAY!
AN EYE FOR AN EYE!
NEXT: ON THE RUN!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Stability returns today as luck favours you—especially in business. Your consistent hard work may finally yield rewards. Delayed projects could resume smoothly. A peaceful spiritual journey may also be considered, along with charitable donations that bring fulfilment.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The Moon's influence may affect your health and finances. Financial losses are possible, particularly in business or new investments. Avoid unnecessary spending and steer clear of controversies, as they could damage your reputation or slow progress.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Blessed by the Moon, you may receive positive news professionally. Domestic life feels harmonious. However, overexcitement could cause minor conflicts—avoid arguments over small matters. Real estate investments look favourable. Students are likely to stay focused and productive.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The day may begin slowly, but you'll regain focus as it progresses. Children's education may require extra attention. You'll likely overcome obstacles, but investment decisions should be taken cautiously. Promising job opportunities could come your way.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Dissatisfaction and low motivation may affect your decision-making. Avoid impulsive investments in unreliable assets. You may not receive expected support from friends, so rely on your own judgment. Independent thinking will yield better results today.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Low energy and distractions may hinder productivity. Avoid rushing into business or financial decisions. Impulse spending could spark domestic conflicts—maintaining financial discipline is crucial for peace at home.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your hard work may be recognized today, leading to success. A short business trip is possible. Support from subordinates will help you implement your plans effectively. Even your rivals might appreciate your performance. Good news from siblings could lift your mood.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Financial stability improves through disciplined planning. You may explore new investments, especially in business or real estate. Interactions will be calm and polite. However, minor tension with your spouse may arise due to emotional or health-related concerns.

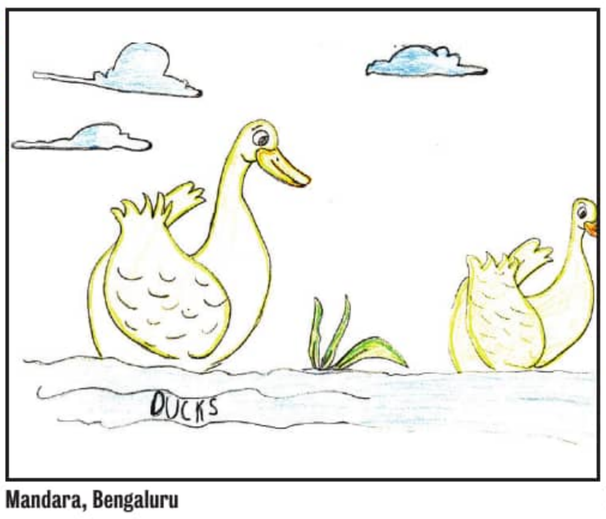
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You'll be filled with confidence and vitality. Planning and execution will be efficient. Review all documents carefully before signing, especially in family business matters. Avoid overenthusiastic or impulsive decisions. Couples should steer clear of trivial disputes.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Anxiety or restlessness may disrupt your day. Time could be wasted on unimportant tasks. Consider visiting a spiritual place to regain clarity. Guidance from elders may help you refocus and manage your challenges effectively.

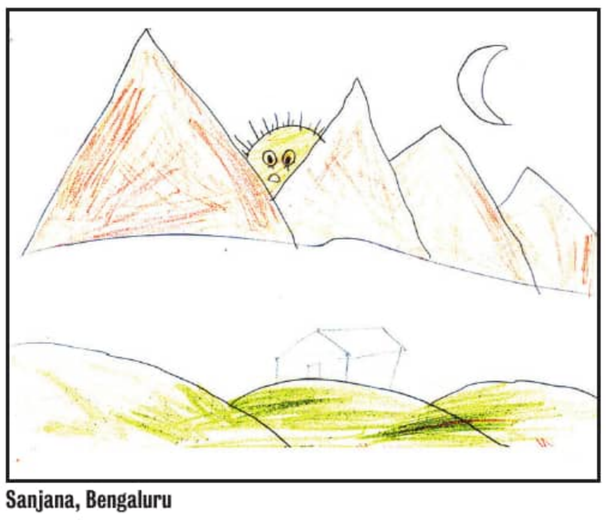
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Social events today may help rebuild professional connections, with future benefits. Creative professionals—especially in art, fashion, or glamour—may begin new ventures. Students will perform well academically. Romantic partners will enjoy joyful, meaningful time together.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Heavy work responsibilities may leave little time for family. However, opportunities to connect with overseas contacts could emerge. Be cautious with financial investments. Good news regarding promotions or professional advancement may brighten your day.

KIDZONE



Mandara, Bengaluru



Sanjana, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (11^2*11^11^-2)/11^-1
= (11^1) / (11^-1)
= 11^(1 - (-1)) = 11^2 = 121

QUOTE UNCODE
It is wonderful how quickly you get used to things, even the most astonishing.

FAST FIVE

O	G	E	E	S
F	U	N	D	I
A	R	O	M	A
F	I	V	E	S
L	O	Y	A	L

BULL'S EYE
otter, retort, rote, rout, route, tore, tort, torte, TORTURE, tote, tour, tout, trot, trout, tutor

RIDDLER
They are all homophones of units of measurement.

STRIKE OUT

R	A	T	E	■	E	A	R	■	R	E	V	S
E	■	E	■	■	N	■	E	■	S	■	■	E
H	A	L	I	D	E	■	P	E	G	T	O	P
C	■	E	■	E	C	L	A	T	■	E	■	O
R	A	M	E	T	S	■	C	A	E	S	A	R
A	■	O	■	O	■	U	L	T	■	T	■	E
Y	■	A	R	M	B	A	N	D	■	H	■	■
E	■	E	R	G	■	I	■	E	D	O	■	T
R	A	B	B	I	T	■	S	T	A	R	E	S
F	■	I	■	M	A	N	E	T	■	P	■	W
E	■	C	■	E	■	R	■	R	■	N	■	■
J	E	S	T	■	G	Y	M	■	W	O	R	K

QUICK

O	M	I	■	T	■	D	E	C	E	A	S	E	S	D
T	■	A	■	■	I	■	■	■	M	■	■	■	■	E
S	E	N	T	I	N	E	L	■	F	A	L	L	■	■
U	■	N	■	■	E	■	■	■	M	■	■	■	■	G
G	R	E	E	D	■	W	R	I	T	I	N	G	■	■
■	■	■	■	N	■	■	■	■	T	■	■	■	■	I
N	I	C	K	E	L	■	H	O	Y	D	E	N	■	■
A	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	H	■	E	■	■	■	■
T	R	A	F	F	I	C	■	D	A	T	E	S	■	■
B	A	S	K	■	Y	U	M	M	I	E	S	T	■	■
I	■	T	■	■	T	■	A	■	R	■	■	O	■	■
T	R	A	V	E	S	T	Y	■	H	E	A	R	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
Z. In each star, start with the letter in the lower left hand point, and move around the other points in a clockwise direction. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 6 for the left hand star, 7 for the one in the centre, and 8 for the right hand star.

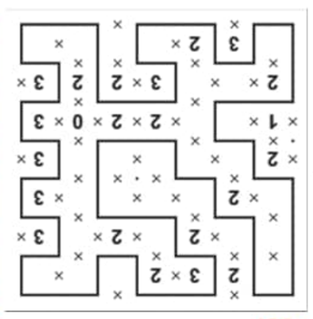
SUDOKU

3	1	6	9	7	4	2	5	8
4	8	2	5	3	6	7	1	9
5	7	9	1	8	2	6	4	3
8	5	4	2	1	7	9	3	6
7	6	1	8	9	3	4	2	5
9	2	3	6	4	5	1	8	7
1	4	8	3	6	9	5	7	2
6	3	5	7	2	1	8	9	4
2	9	7	4	5	8	3	6	1

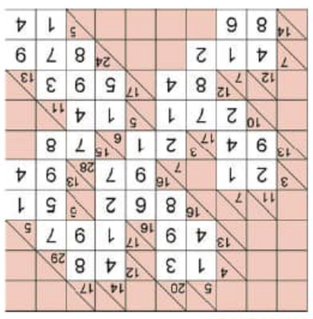
ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Ed, Med, Dame, Amend, Demean, Menaced.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 7 + 4 + 6 = 22
Medium
5 x 6 - 6 - 6 = 18
Hard
9 - 8 x 4 + 5 = 9

LOOP



KAKURO



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ಆಕರ್ಷಕ ಆಫರ್ಸ್ ಮೇಳ

ಪೂರ್ವಿಕಾ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ಸ್, ಟಿವಿ, ಲ್ಯಾಪ್ಟಾಪ್ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ಯಾಜೆಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ವಿಶ್ವಾಸವಾದ ಸ್ಥಳ.

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